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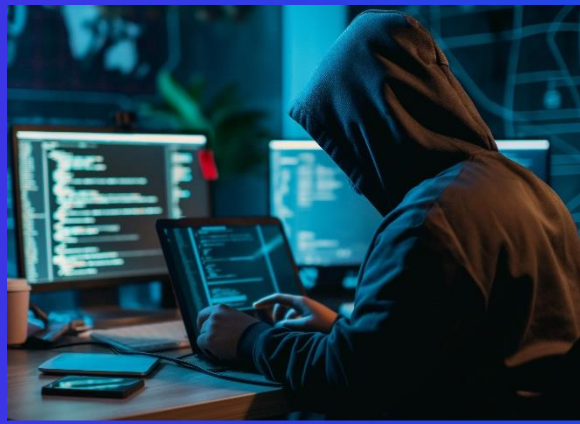
KPMG Cyber Threat Intelligence Platform

UNC1860 - A Deep Dive into Their Custom-Built Arsenal

TLP : Clear

KPMG. Make the Difference.



UNC1860 is an Iranian state sponsored threat actor believed to be linked to Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS), known for acting as an initial access provider and its capability to provide access into government networks across the Middle East. First detected in July 2022 in Albania, was observed deploying malware, backdoors and wipers. A distinguishing feature of UNC1860 is their arsenal of custom-built tools like TEMPLEPLAY and VIROGREEN, GUI-based malware controllers which allow them to infiltrate victim networks via RDP.

Initial access into victim networks is gained by exploiting vulnerabilities in internet-facing servers and utilizing a set of passive, listener-based utilities. After gaining foothold, they deploy custom droppers/web shells to maintain remote access. They utilize custom Base64 and XOR obfuscation methods and rename strings and function names to evade detection. Instead of a traditional C2 infrastructure, they implement utilities and passive implants that are stealthier than traditional backdoors. The network traffic is also encrypted using HTTPS. The C2 uses two malware controllers which provide post-exploitation capabilities such as command execution on host's machines, upload or download files. TEMPLEPLAY can use infected machines as a middlebox using RDP. VIROGREEN scans and exploits CVE-2019-0604 in Sharepoint servers. It also controls post-exploitation payloads. Further, backdoors are deployed which establish persistence using service registries. Backdoors such as TEMPLELOCK can terminate Windows Event Log service threads. The threat actor may scan IP addresses using the victim network, potentially to conduct additional scanning and exploitation activities.

Organizations should patch internet-facing servers to eliminate vulnerabilities and use advanced threat detection to identify hidden malware and custom encryption methods.

What should you do?

- Monitor Indicators of Compromise (IoCs) in your environment to identify anomalies.
- Ensure your Windows environment is patched to the brim and is protected with multi-factor authentication.
- Conduct a comprehensive, full spectrum, threat assessment exercise to uncover blind spots and improvement areas.

KPMG Cyber Threat Intelligence Platform is an industry defining, research-based capability for enhanced visibility into cyber threats.

Our machine ingestible feeds and analysis are the result of automated, sensor-based intelligence metrics with dedicated, expert insights of each threat to provide you the appropriate context on a timely basis in industry standard formats such as STIX/ TAXII/ MISP.

These feeds are additionally co-related with our industry partners and independent research for additional context. The intelligence obtained is then curated from strategic, tactical and operational perspective to give you a wide-ranging view of cyber threats.

We also assist you with our renowned cyber incident response and threat hunting services in case you identify an active threat in your environment.

We offer a wide-range of services, including:
Strategic threat intelligence report
Machine ingestible threat intelligence feeds
Threat intelligence driven pre-emptive threat hunting exercise
Cyber Incident Response Services

KPMG in India Cyber Response Hotline: 1800 2020 502

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Indicators of Compromise: Hashes
1176381da7dea356f3377a59a6f0e799
41f4732ed369f2224a422752860b0bc5
4029bc4a06638bb9ac4b8528523b72f6
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Indicators of Compromise: Hashes
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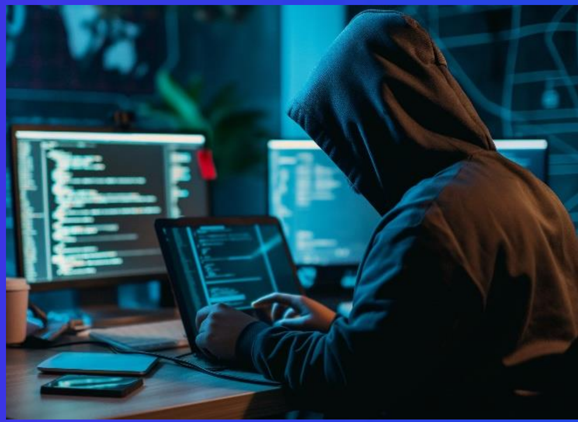

Indicators of Compromise: Hashes
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